



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

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## Hot Springs National Park News Release

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For Immediate Release  
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### Ozark Bathhouse Open House Set for August 25


Hot Springs National Park will hold an open house at the historic Ozark Bathhouse on Bathhouse Row from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Friday, August 25, which is the National Park Service's Founder's Day.

"Founder's Day is always a special day for the National Park Service as we look back to celebrate our long history of preservation and stewardship. In keeping with this theme, we invite the public to tour the Ozark Bathhouse and see the renovations that have been completed," announced Park Superintendent Josie Fernandez.

The park's preservation crew has accomplished major improvements in the Ozark: installing all new conduit and wiring, water and drain lines, accessible restrooms, lighting fixtures, replacing missing or damaged windows with new replicas, replacing missing and damaged floor tiles, plastering walls and ceilings, restoring plaster moldings, and painting all walls and ceilings. Preservation crew supervisor Stacy Jackson oversaw the work of 15 employees, including plumbers, electricians, carpenters and other trade staff.

Several activities and exhibits will be available in the Ozark throughout the day. National Park Rangers will provide free guided tours at 10:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m., and rangers and members of the preservation crew will be available to answer questions about the recent renovations. Tours depart from the Ozark lobby. The Friends of the Fordyce and Hot Springs National Park, Inc. will serve light refreshments throughout the day. At 2 p.m. we will celebrate with birthday cake.

August 25 is also the launch date of the latest, improved version of the National Park Service website, [www.NPS.gov](http://www.NPS.gov). In preparation for this, the park worked with some area EAST Labs to create website information about the park trails. Students from EAST Labs at Fountain Lake Junior and Senior High Schools, Lakeside High School, Lake Hamilton High School, and Jessierville High School worked this summer to create a GIS map of the park trails. The students walked each park trail with a GPS unit to get latitude and longitude information. They also took photographs of the trail signs, trail shelters, and other features. They then took that information and overlaid it on an orthorectified aerial infrared photo of the park to accurately place the park trails on the photo. A student webmaster then took these files and created a series of web pages with information on each trail as well as some history of the park trails. Some of the students will be at the Ozark during the open house to talk about the project and a computer will be set up to



view the website. The effort was funded in part by the Morris Foundation and the EAST Lab Community Partnership Program grant through the AR Department of Education.

The park's permanent collection of original art, created from the park's Artist- In- Residence program, will be on display. This popular program began in June 2004, and offers professional artists from around the country the opportunity to visit Hot Springs National Park and stay at the park cabin at Gulpha Gorge for up to one month. Photographs documenting the phases of renovation work in the interior rooms of the Ozark will also be on display.

Founder's Day, also known as the National Park Service anniversary day, is an annual, nationwide event. On August 25, 1916, President Woodrow Wilson signed legislation creating the National Park Service. The agency now administers 390 sites across the country.

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